



**General Assembly
Security Council**

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**General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict**

**Security Council
Seventy-second year**

**Letter dated 1 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of
Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the aggression carried out against Artsakh in April 2016 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zohrab Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1 April 2017

It has been a year since Azerbaijan's April aggression against Artsakh.

During four days of April 2016 Azerbaijan conducted the same type of aggressive actions and barbarism against the population of Artsakh that it carried out for about four years in the beginning of 1990s, when it tried to deprive the people of Nagorno-Karabakh of their right to live in their homeland and to exercise their RIGHT to self-determination.

We pay tribute to the memory of all heroes who fell repelling the attack of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and who gave their lives to prevent mass atrocities against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

While the international community was condemning the gross violations of International Humanitarian Law by the Azerbaijani armed forces, Baku was praising the acts of barbarism and their perpetrators.

Azerbaijan's adventurism severely damaged the peace process.

On May 16 in Vienna, upon the initiative of the United States Secretary of State, and on June 20 in St. Petersburg, at the invitation of the President of Russia, the meetings of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan took place, aimed at stabilizing the situation, preventing new escalation and the creation of conditions conducive to the advancement of the negotiation process. As an outcome of those meetings, it was emphasized that it is necessary to settle the conflict exclusively through peaceful means, to strictly adhere to the 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, which have no time limitations. It was agreed to establish in the shortest possible time an investigation mechanism for ceasefire violations and to expand the capacities of the team of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

However, Azerbaijan refused to implement the reached agreements and found itself in isolation by opposing the international community.

The highest leadership of Azerbaijan openly lies when it claims that the Co-Chair countries allegedly recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan. It pretends as if it does not understand what the Co-Chair countries are referring to when they say that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh should implement its right to self-determination through the legally binding free expression of will. Armenia shares the same approach: indeed, the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh should be determined by the people of Artsakh. That forgery of Baku exposes the failure of the policy of Azerbaijan. After failing in the negotiation process Baku resorted to the military solution but failed again.

The April war once again vividly proved that Artsakh can never be part of Azerbaijan under any status, and that the implementation of the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination is irreversible.

In response to Azerbaijan's continuous threats to use force, the international community clearly warns that it will not be tolerated.

As a guarantor of Artsakh's security, Armenia will ensure the safety of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Together with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, we will continue the efforts aimed at the exclusively peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



**General Assembly
Security Council**

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**General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East**

Security Council Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 3 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a letter from the Lebanese National Ministry of Defence responding to the allegations contained in the Israeli letter of 13 March 2017 (S/2017/216) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nawaf Salam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the identical letters dated 3 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Comments of the Armed Forces Command regarding the letter from the Israeli enemy addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the so-called violations by Lebanon of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)

Violations of the Blue Line, including at TP16, and in the Shab'a Farms

These violations in fact consist of Lebanese farmers and shepherds ploughing their land north of the technical fence, which remains under Israeli occupation. That has been the situation since 2000. The proposed solution is to address the issue of the areas with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim, restore Lebanese sovereignty over those areas and operationalize the Observer Group Lebanon's monitoring of the armistice line, thereby implementing paragraphs 5 and 10 of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

The allegation regarding Hizbullah activity

These allegations are mendacious and baseless. All photographs presented at the trilateral meetings were of Lebanese civilians or Lebanese Army intelligence officials.

Incidents between civilians and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

These incidents were not intended to hinder UNIFIL movement. Instead, they were caused by a misunderstanding between civilians and UNIFIL patrols, owing to those patrols' failure to grasp the importance of respecting private property and the customs of village inhabitants. The Lebanese Army is working to address these incidents in coordination with UNIFIL. It is normal that incidents of this nature should occur from time to time with the Lebanese Army, given that any military force operating among civilians may encounter incidents arising from a misunderstanding with them. The Israeli enemy's interference in these incidents therefore amounts to blatant meddling in an internal Lebanese matter.

Armed individuals

Those individuals are Lebanese citizens who hunt as a pastime and have in no way undermined security or stability. Nevertheless, the Lebanese Army arrested them because they were acting in violation of Lebanese laws that prohibit hunting in the area south of the Litani, and the Armed Forces Command recently circulated a directive as a reminder the decision to prohibit hunting in the area south of the Litani River, particularly near the Blue Line.

It should be noted that:

(a) After a thorough review of these allegations, it has emerged that, according to the UNIFIL coordination mechanism, the Lebanese Army was not notified of 70 per cent of them when they occurred. This failure casts doubt on whether the incidents actually occurred;

(b) In the trilateral meetings, the Lebanese party explained its position on the violations of which it stands accused by the Israeli party. Both parties had

previously been exchanging lists of violations and responses to the lists. However, the Israeli party has stopped submitting lists and begun to send them directly to the United Nations with the intent to deceive and divert attention from its own daily land, sea and air violations;

(c) On several occasions, the Lebanese party has presented its position on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) to United Nations officials, elucidated the issues that hinder the implementation of that resolution and made recommendations on how to address the problem. The most recent occasion was before the United Nations strategic review team at the meeting held on 18 January 2017 during its visit to Lebanon. The issues are:

- The Israeli enemy's continued occupation of the Shab'a Farms and the Lebanese part of the town of Ghajar;
- The areas with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim, Lebanese territory that remains between the Blue Line and the international borders;
- Israeli air, sea and land violations;
- The Israeli enemy's acts of espionage, whether by means of the towers it has constructed along the Blue Line, or by means of its collaborators inside Lebanon and the Israeli espionage devices that were discovered within Lebanese territory.



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Seventy-first session

Agenda items 19 and 73 (a)

Sustainable development

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Accreditation and participation of intergovernmental organizations in the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has received requests for accreditation from the following organizations to participate as intergovernmental organizations in the work of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, with observer status, in accordance with paragraph 15 of annex II to General Assembly resolution 70/303:

Benguela Current Convention

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

North Pacific Fisheries Commission

